

Virginia Department of Emergency Management  
Virginia Emergency Operations Center  
10501 Trade Court, Richmond, VA 23236

**SPOT Report # 3**  
**Appomattox Gas Pipe Line Explosion**  
**16 September 2008, 1100 Hours**

*New Information in Bold Italic font*

**Summary:**

At 0818 hours, 14 September the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) was notified by Appomattox County Emergency Coordinator of an explosion and fire on the Williams Energy Transco natural gas pipeline located near State Routs 26 and 460 in the County. Local, State and Federal agencies returned to the scene in the early hours of 15 September to continue damage assessments and investigation of the incident.

**Initial Damage Assessment:**

- ***2 homes destroyed; 4 homes minor damage***
- ***2 outbuildings damaged or destroyed***
- ***3 automobiles destroyed***
- ***Route 26 damaged for several hundred yards***

**Casualties:**

- 5 subjects injured; transported to local medical facility, treated and released on 14 September

**Emergency Declarations:**

- Appomattox County; declared Local Emergency 0930 hrs 14 September;  
***Appomattox Local Emergency terminated 1800 hrs 15 September***

**Local Shelters:**

- Appomattox County High School opened 14 September and closed 1700 hrs 14 September; 46 families registered at shelter; 23 families accepted hotel lodging offered by Williams Energy

**VDEM / VEOC Actions:**

- VDEM Region 3 Coordinator Cocker and VDEM Area 5 Hazmat Officer Collins responded and assisted local emergency services officials on 14 and 15 September; ***VDEM Region 3 Coordinator and VDEM Area 5 Hazmat Officer cleared incident on 15 September***
- The Roanoke Valley Regional Hazmat Response Teams responded with 12 personnel and equipment at 0945 hrs 14 September; Regional Hazmat Team was released at 2015 hrs 14 September
- VDEM Technical Support Unit with staff and support vehicles responded at request of local officials at 1400 hrs 14 September to provide interoperable communications; ***VDEM Technical Support Unit with staff***

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**and support vehicles were released and returned to Richmond at 1630 hrs 15 September.**

**Local Actions:**

- Appomattox County declared a local emergency at 1136 hrs 14 September and opened their EOC; **local EOC closed at 1700 hrs 14 September and local emergency terminated at 1800 hrs 15 September**
- One shelter was opened at Appomattox High School with no reported residents; shelter closed at 1900 hrs, 14 September
- **Residents allowed to return home on 15 September with exception of three houses in immediate area that have structural damage; Williams Energy providing lodging at local hotel**
- A mile of State Route 26 remains closed near the scene of the pipeline explosion
- The Town of Appomattox is monitoring the water level on the Town tank due to a power outage
- Local fire and EMS personnel were released from the scene at 1900 hrs, 14 September
- Amherst County Mobile Command Post responded on 14 September; **released on 15 September**
- **Central VA Electric Co-op began replacing power lines in affected area at 1745 hrs 15 September**
- **Williams Energy working with contractors and federal agencies and affected families on long term recovery efforts**
- **Appomattox County and Williams Energy held Town Hall Meeting on 15 September to address citizen concerns and issues; second meeting scheduled for 16 September**
- **Verizon installing temporary telephone line through affected area**
- **Request for Building Inspectors to assist with damage assessments transmitted via Statewide Mutual Aid on 16 September**

**Other Actions:**

- VDOT provided signs and barriers for traffic control; **VDOT conducting inspection of Route 26**
- VSP provided traffic control and scene security on 14 and 15 September; **VSP resources released at 2115 hrs 15 September**
- USDOT Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration Officials are on scene to conduct investigation
- **VDH Office of Drinking Water assisting locality reference issues on wells**

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